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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

App. No. : 09/602,627 Confirmation No. 2280  
Applicant : Masakazu Karita  
Filed : October 1, 2001  
T.C./A.U. : 3736  
Examiner : Brian Scott Szmal  
Docket No. : 31,001-AG  
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

*Enter  
Amendment*

*5-9-06  
[Signature]*

**REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113**  
**AMENDMENT Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)**

Sir:

In response to the Office action of January 21, 2004 reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, amended as follows, is respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.